

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Convention name rekindles debate



NAYS HAVE IT — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee members vote by show of hands Sept. 19 on a motion to ask convention attorneys make a one-year study of an SBC name change before any action is taken to do so. The motion, in response to a name change task force being appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright, failed by a vote of 20 in favor and 39 opposed. (BP photo)

Should have been brought before convention messengers, critics say

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The announcement from Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bryant Wright of a presidential task force to study the prospect of changing the convention's name sparked a lively debate during the SBC Executive Committee meeting Sept. 19 in Nashville.

Executive Committee member Darrell P. Orman, pastor of First Church in Stuart, Fl., offered a motion that convention attorneys study the issue for one year "before we take any action" on possibly changing the name. The motion later failed on a vote of 20 in favor and 39 opposed.

"Every man here wants to do something significant in his life for Christ and His Kingdom," Orman said. "A name change could be a future necessity for our convention but it should start from the bottom up, not the top down."

The Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task

Force's 2010 proposals for dramatically reorganizing the Southern Baptist Convention and reallocating missions dollars caused a "tug of war" and left "a lot of conflicted feelings... across our nation," Orman said. "We don't need another wedge issue at this time."

An Executive Committee member from Ohio echoed Orman's concerns. "If you get outside of Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee, GCR is still very, very divisive among Southern Baptists," said Charles Chambers, a layman from Toledo, Ohio. "Don't divide us again."

Another Executive Committee member suggested a better approach would be to let messengers to the SBC annual meeting bring up the subject themselves. "I would counsel us to be very thoughtful and prayerful before we open a can of worms that the convention has not said on the front end they want to open. [Messengers] have said in years past that this is not something we want to do," said Ron Madison, senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Huntsville, Al.

"It may be time to consider it again, but if it is time to consider it again, isn't there wisdom in letting the messengers generate

that request, rather than putting something out here... that is almost guaranteed to become a focus of, at very best, a spirited discussion?" he asked.

Executive Committee chairman Roger Spradlin reminded the group that the wisdom of discussing a name change was not the issue before them.

"If this is a can of worms — that's how you would want to characterize it — we, meaning the Executive Committee, are not opening that," said Spradlin, co-pastor of Valley Church in Bakersfield, Ca., and a member of Wright's task force.

"The president has made an announcement... We can't take action on whether a group of volunteers is appointed by the president. That's under his purview," he said.

After Orman's motion was defeated, Executive Committee member Bill Whittaker, a retired college president and retired pastor from Glasgow, Ky., offered a motion "that the Executive Committee respectfully request President Wright to share his concerns for a convention name change with the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention meeting and request the convention approve the task force."

Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright believes Southern Baptists would benefit from another look at the following four points:

- Is it a good idea, that is, is there value in considering a name change?
- If so, what would be a good name to suggest?
- What would be the potential legal ramifications of a name change?
- What would be the potential financial implications?

That motion was defeated by a large margin on a show of hands.

In a news conference later, Wright said it is not a "foregone conclusion" the task force would recommend a name change. "I think there would be a good number of members of the task force that would certainly, if they were to speak for themselves tonight, would be able to share they do not know what their conclusion would be," Wright said.

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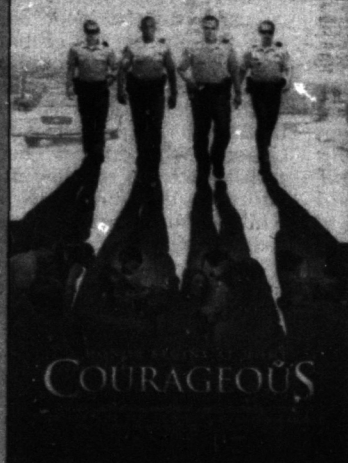
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William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Rebekah Ray
rray@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

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Don McGregor

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Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrec@mbcb.org

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Stand up for traditional values

The e-mail press release sounded ominous enough. "GetEQUAL, a state branch of the national direct action organization GetEQUAL, dedicated to working toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights through bold action — will be staging a press conference at the south side of the Mississippi State Capitol.... GetEQUAL Mississippi representative and third year law student at Mississippi College School of Law Andrew Stankevich will call for the American Bar Association (ABA) to change its accreditation standards for law schools and put an end to the discrimination of Christian law schools against LGBT students...."

Stankevich showed up for the press conference, right on time. "On behalf of GetEQUAL Mississippi, we're calling for the American Bar Association to end LGBT discrimination in law schools, at Christian law schools. The Mississippi College School of Law discriminates on the basis of activity and not status, in regard to sexual orientation. (T)hey allowed gay students to come to the law school, but we're not allowed to be openly gay. I feel like the school has a culture of homophobia," he said.

Apparently, that means the Jackson-based law school, owned by Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, has an open admissions policy in compliance with ABA requirements and federal law, but does not allow LGBT groups to go further and organize clubs or hold events on school property.

Stankevich went on to claim that his grades have been lowered and he was passed over for school activities because of his homosexuality. "I received anonymous calls from what I believe to be students where people called me in the middle of the night and threatened to rape me. I've had people harass me in class, make nasty comments."

"I had one professor literally try to force me into a mental health program against my will. The professor told me that I was crazy and that he was going to bar me from practicing law unless I went into a mental health program," he alleged.

When pressed by reporters to produce documentation for his various accusations, Stankevich could not do so. Although he promised to e-mail full documentation to reporters, none has been received since the press conference.

Stankevich was questioned about the statement in the press release that GetEQUAL Mississippi was a "grassroots civil rights organization." When asked to identify other members of the organization, Stankevich said, "I don't feel I need to."

When the questioning continued about whether there was indeed an organization, he became more intense and said, "You can say whatever you want to, but I am calling myself 'GetEQUAL Mississippi' and I am the representative of GetEQUAL Mississippi."



MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS — Andrew Stankevich (center), who said he is a homosexual student at Mississippi College School of Law, struggles to make a point before skeptical reporters at a Sept. 20 press conference in Jackson during which he alleged that the law school discriminates against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. (Photo taken from video recording)

Stankevich was also forced to admit that the press release didn't even come from him, but was ghost-written by the national GetEQUAL organization. "I mean, they sent out the press release. I mean, that didn't come from me. It came out from them at the national level."

That's when reporters began to roll their eyes and shake their heads in disbelief. They realized they had been misled by Stankevich and GetEQUAL. The press release had come from a Washington, D.C. public relations firm. There was no Mississippi "organization." Stankevich was merely one person with an ax to grind.

Stankevich closed the press conference and hurried off, even though he had earlier promised to talk one-on-one with a reporter after the press conference.

There's a lesson in this tale for all of us: It often seems as if Christians who stand for traditional values are outmanned and outgunned, that there are big organizations and untold numbers of people prepared to bully and overwhelm us at every turn. However, it's sometimes just a small group or even one individual manipulating the power of the popular media to appear more important.

When we stand up to these people, they wither. The truth, as always, will ultimately prevail.

Students encouraged to reach Millennials

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — America's Millennial generation, born between 1980 and 2000, possess world-changing potential, youth leaders were told during the LifeWay Christian Resources National Youth Worker's Conference Sept. 12-14 in Nashville.

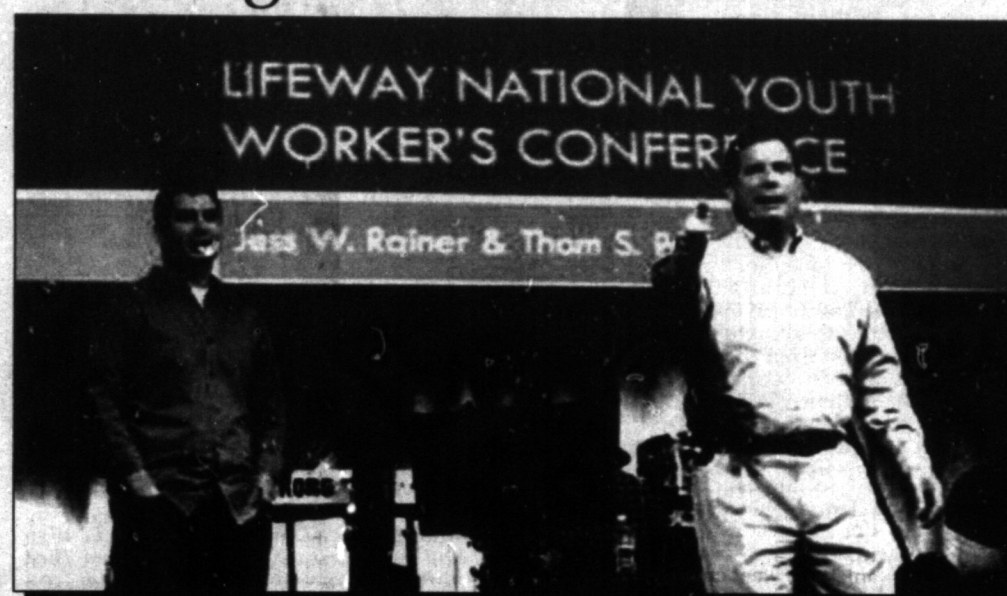
"This generation is making a huge impact. They are sending shockwaves throughout global society," said Rainer, a featured speaker and administration/outreach pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tn.

Jess Rainer, coauthor of The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation, with his co-author and father Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, joined in unpacking data and insights from their research during LifeWay's National Youth Worker's Conference, which included 34 breakout sessions with experts in student ministry.

Despite being more than 78 million strong, only 15% of Millennials profess to be Christian, a trend the Rainers hope to see reversed through educating leaders on how to reach the emerging generation.

The older half of the generation is exiting college and are "redefining adulthood," determined to make a statement, Jess Rainer said. The youngest Millennials are 10-year-old future leaders, and this is where youth workers fit in by grappling with the realities of this generation.

Jess Rainer explained five defining characteristics of Millennials gathered from interviews with 1,200 Millennials and published in their book. First, Millennials are both a hopeful and self-burdened generation. An overwhelming 96% of respondents believe they will do something great in their lifetime.



ADDRESSING A GENERATION — Thom S. Rainer (right), president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and his son Jess Rainer, administration and outreach pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tn., examine Millennials — America's largest-ever generation — during the LifeWay National Youth Worker's Conference Sept. 12-14 in Nashville. (BP photo)

"You are in a great place at a great time," Thom Rainer told the youth leaders at the sessions, "because even though a low percent of this generation is Christian they are a generation that is ready to make a difference."

Growing up as a Millennial, Jess Rainer said he heard that he could do anything he wanted to do, that success was achievable and he was responsible for making the world a better place.

Secondly, Millennials are technologically and social media savvy. Of the 1,200 Millennials surveyed, 70% said their cell phones are a vital part of their lives. "Technology is huge for this generation," Jess Rainer said, noting that more than half of Millennials are active users of

Facebook. "Social media is an intricate part of their lives."

Thirdly, Millennials value learning through formal and informal education. "The Millennials are the most educated generation in American history," Jess Rainer said. Beyond formal degrees, Millennials value informal education through mentorships. "We as Millennials want someone to invest in our lives," Jess Rainer said. "We want people to come along side us and mentor us. This is where youth workers come in."

Fourth, Millennials are disconnected spiritually. The Boomer generation, the group born between 1946-64, began to move toward antagonism for Christianity, Thom Rainer explained. "We were the generation that doubted institutions like church and government," he said. "We began to have a negative attitude toward Christianity. At least when you're antagonistic you are engaged."

"This generation, as a whole, is so disconnected that their attitude is not antagonism; it's apathy," Thom Rainer said. "Therefore, you cannot expect

them to show up in church because they are supposed to."

This is a generation that needs to hear that faith makes a difference, he added. "This is a generation that is not going to be satisfied with 'churchianity' as usual," Thom Rainer said. "They're not going through the motions, like what much of my generation has done in the name of Christian faith."

Showing Millennials the relevance of faith is key to reaching them, Thom Rainer said. "That means that faith has to make a difference in their community and to the nations," he said.

Fifth, relationships are paramount to Millennials, with 61% of respondents citing family as the most important relationship. "There's nothing more important to Millennials than family," Jess Rainer said. "If you're wondering where to start with Millennials, start with their family."

The Rainers ended by challenging the youth workers to reach both the Christian and non-Christian Millennials. For Christian Millennials, leaders must reject status quo, inward focus, and superficiality.

GUEST OPINION:

Why the prejudice toward tobacco?

By Kelly Bogg
Alexandria, La.



related health problems at \$95 billion annually.)

Tobacco is estimated to claim the lives of approximately 440,000 lives a year. Comparatively, it is estimated that abortion annually ends the lives of 1.3 million pre-born children. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study in 2005 showing that alcohol kills some 75,000 Americans each year and shortens the lives of these people by an average of 30 years. Of that 75,000, 41,000 died in automobile accidents or other mishaps.

While there are no hard statistics for the health consequences of gambling, studies do reveal that as a group, problem gamblers suffer from a

variety of maladies most likely due to stress. Gambling addiction also is tied to broken families, lost jobs, and lost income.

Millions of Americans are gambling addicts, and many state governments are accomplices by promoting lotteries and casinos. (Editor's note: Mississippi is one of those states.)

The economic costs of abortion, while difficult to calculate, are not hard to imagine. Since abortion was declared legal in the U.S. in 1973, more than 50 million pre-born babies have lost their lives. That means there are millions of fewer citizens who otherwise would be contributing to the economy and the tax base.

A 2006 report by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that alcohol abuse costs the United States an estimated \$185 billion annually. However, only \$26 billion (14%) comes from direct medical costs or treating alcoholics. Almost half (\$88 billion) comes from lost productivity.

Additionally, in 2006 George Washington University researchers reported that excessive drinking adds \$35 billion to health care coverage annually.

There is no doubt that tobacco use results in poor health and a drain on the economy, but so do abortion, alcohol, and gambling. If the U.S. government is really concerned about the long-term well-being of its citizens, why does it cherry-pick tobacco to regulate in an effort to discourage its use while all but ignoring abortion, alcohol, and gambling?

Of the four, none help to make our nation more healthy, wealthy, or wise.

Bogg is editor of the Baptist Message (www.baptist-message.com), newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria.

Dungy: see 'Courageous'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Former National Football League and Super Bowl champion coach Tony Dungy has watched the upcoming film, *Courageous*, and wants other men to do so as well. "It's a great movie. I think men, especially, are going to look at this and really connect and identify," Dungy told LifeWay Christian Resources' Jason Ellerbrook and Scott Mills in a webcast on LifeWay's website. The webcast was part of a series called, *Stand Firm*, where Ellerbrook and Mills interview high-profile Christian men. "Every guy who looks at this is going to see themselves in some way and say, 'How can I be better with the hole in my parenting?' I think it's going to be special," Dungy said. *Courageous*, which opens Sept. 30, is the latest film from Sherwood Church in Georgia, which produced the movies, *Fireproof*, and *Facing the Giants*. With a police force as the film's backdrop, the story follows five men as they seek to become better fathers. Most reviewers who have seen *Courageous* are calling it the best film yet from Sherwood. Dungy, an outspoken Christian involved with the All Pro Dad fatherhood organization, said he could connect with the movie's main character, Adam (played by Alex Kendrick). "He loves his family, but in the first part of the movie he is into his job and not doing his job at home, but he recognizes it," Dungy said. "And I think that was me for a long while. I was into my job. I wanted my kids to do great, but I knew I had some issues and I recognized I needed to be able to spend more quality time with my kids."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
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4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Looking Back

10 years ago

Mickey Caison, national coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief at the North American Mission Board, says, "Once again, Mississippi has come through for us and I really appreciate it." Caison was commenting on the response from Mississippi in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy.

20 years ago

Using the prayer ministry of a Florida church as a model, Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman calls for churches affiliated with the convention to enlist in a national prayer ministry for 1992.

50 years ago

Addressing 22,000 people during a rally in Philadelphia, Penn., Billy Graham urges young people not to marry "unbelievers," asserting that the country has more unhappy marriages than ever before.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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Clue: Z = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty: Forty-Six

WILLIAM CAREY A DATE TO REMEMBER

For most of us in Mississippi, William Carey is a Baptist university located in Hattiesburg with other locations serving folks across the South and parts of Mississippi. To the rest of Baptists around the world and, of course, to us along with many evangelicals, William Carey is generally referred to as "the father of modern missions." This year is the celebration of that man's 250th birthday. It is a date to remember. As an outgrowth of that time marker and in coordination with William Carey University and Temple Church in Hattiesburg, the International Mission Board will be having a historical Commissioning Service on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at Temple Church. I would encourage as many of you as possible to make plans to attend. Young and old, association-wide, and church groups need to make plans to be at this wonderful event.

William Carey, the man for whom the university was named, was an amazing person. Born in England, he would eventually go to India under the call and guidance of God. In India, his remarkable work would reach out and touch lives all across that great land from the Serampore Mission. He was a man of keen intellect and seemingly unstoppable energy. He was a shoemaker, a preacher, a missionary, an author, a statesman, a publisher, an educator, a Bible translator, a scientist, an evangelist, and a passionate loving Christian.

William Carey came to know Jesus as his Savior and Lord. He also came to see



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

that there was a world beyond his sphere of life and circle of blessings that needed a Savior.

Of course, it was Carey who launched this nation in the springboard of missions with a statement, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Now two centuries later you and I can be a part of seeing, praying for, and undergirding the next wave of missionaries who will be going from Southern Baptist churches all across our land to the ends of the earth to tell the same glorious and amazing story of Jesus. One thing is undeniable and will be evident as you come and see this wonderful Commissioning Service in November, and that is the heavenly fires of mission vision, love for Jesus, and a total commitment to tell a world about Him still burn brightly today.

It is not every day we have opportunities that are near enough and accessible enough where if we make the effort we can be a part of a Commissioning Service with the International Mission Board. Many of our folks have never had that opportunity and this may be the best opportunity you will ever have. Why should you make an effort to come to this Commissioning Service? I know there are many reasons, but let me just suggest two.

The first is by your very presence you will be a source of great encouragement to both our mission leaders in the Convention and to the people who are being commissioned. It will say a great deal about our care for them and our prayerful, supportive, nurturing of the families who soon will be dispersed across the globe to tell people groups in every section of our planet about Jesus. You come, and you will be a blessing.

The other reason is also vitally important, and that is you will be blessed. You will see the missionaries, hear their testimonies, and you will sense their hearts as they follow Jesus. It will be a great blessing to them and you will be the recipient of great blessings yourself. In the days, weeks, months, and years that pass by, you will look back with joy at

what God did in this meeting and you will look forward with greater understanding and insight into what He is doing around the world. The Commissioning Service is a living, breathing visual presentation of our mission praying and our Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon giving!

Make your plans to attend. If you are unable to travel or hindered from coming, please undergird this memorable experience with prayer. The wave of a new generation of unreached people is depending on God's people to make an investment like William Carey made, and reach out to them like he did years ago.

The author can be contacted at
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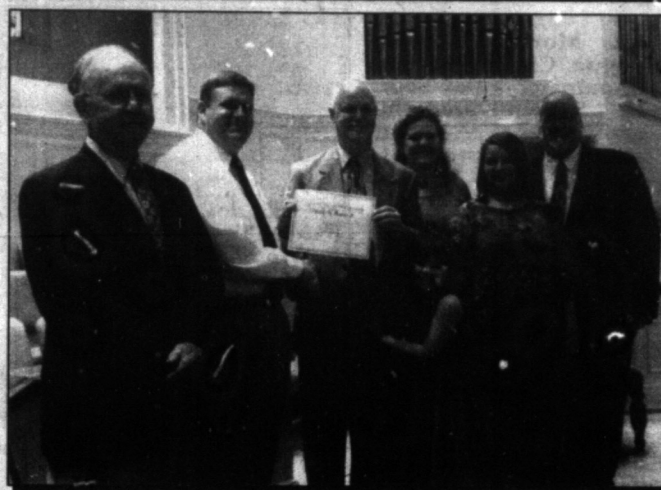
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JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **First Church, Winona,** ordained Charles "Chip" Rogers as deacon Sept. 18. Shown are James Earl Oliver, pastor Chris Aldridge, Rogers, Sara Rogers, Cheryl Rogers, Beth Rogers, and associate pastor of music and education T.R. Darcy.



1. Rogers ordination

2. **Stronghope Church, Wesson,** held a mission's recognition recently, recognizing Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Acteens, and Youth on Missions. Georgia Bowlin was this year's recipient of the 2011 WMU scholarship. Shown are the participants.



2. Stronghope Church, Wesson

3. **Victory Church, Jefferson Davis County,** purchased new pews and donated their old pews to Mt. Hebron Church, Eclectic, Ala. Mt. Hebron was destroyed by a tornado Apr. 27. Shown are Keith Wingard, John Wingard (pastor of Mt. Hebron), Tommy Arinder (pastor of Victory), Pat Arinder, Hal Bullock, Bill Deen, Earl Hathorn, W.L. Bagley, Seth Bullock, and James Coulter.

4. The New Albany Police Department presented a drug and alcohol awareness program to the student ministry of **Ingomar Church, New Albany, Sept. 18.** K9 officer David Roberson and Officer Kubo demonstrated the work Kubo does for the agency. The police department was presented complimentary tickets to the movie *Courageous* for the officers and their spouses. Shown are some of the students with officers Chris Glasson, Mark Cossitt, and David Roberson.



3. Victory Church, Jefferson Davis County



4. Ingomar Church, New Albany



5. First Church, Calhoun City, Men's Quartet

5. The Men's Quartet of **First Church, Calhoun City,** entertained at the fifth Sunday night service. Shown are Jimmy Hardin, Tim Hardaway, Henry Lackey, and Edwin Boland. Jeanette Keyser, accompanist.

6. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch,** is hosting a gospel singing Oct. 15, 6 p.m., featuring the Toastmasters.

MS POSITIONS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Resumes may be emailed to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org or mailed to P.O. Box 591, Brookhaven, MS, 39602.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, Ms. 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

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OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Old Rice Road Baptist Church, 82 Old Rice Road, Madison, MS 39110 or via e-mail to orbc_hr_mailbox@comcast.net. Submittal deadline is October 1, 2011.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Central Church, Brookhaven:** Revival, Oct. 2-5; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Mack Amis, Ed McDaniel, Larry Leblanc, Tommy Middleton, speakers; Edd Brashier, music.

2. **East Morton, Morton:** Homecoming, Oct. 2; services, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Earl Clark, speaker.

3. **Becker Church, Monroe Association:** Revival, Oct. 2-5; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenneth Bobo, speaker, Butch Bryan, music; Randy Spencer, pastor.

4. **First Church, Magee:** Revival, Oct. 2-5; 7 p.m. nightly, and noon services Mon.-Wed.; Chad Grayson, speaker; Bruce Pruitt, music.

5. **Trinity Church, West Point:** Revival, Oct. 2-5; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Winders, speaker; Charlie

Farrar, music; Mike Smith, pastor.

6. **New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 2; morning speaker, Kent Campbell; Tommy Blakeney, music; covered dish lunch; evening, The Revelations Quartet and Hunter C. May; a love offering will be received.

7. **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle:** Homecoming, Oct. 2; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch.

8. **Parker Church, Calhoun County:** 100th anniversary, Oct. 8-9; Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. with potluck lunch; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by BBQ lunch at noon; special speakers and music.

9. **Siloam Church, West Point:** Homecoming, Oct. 9; 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Joe Senter, speaker; William Tiffin, music.



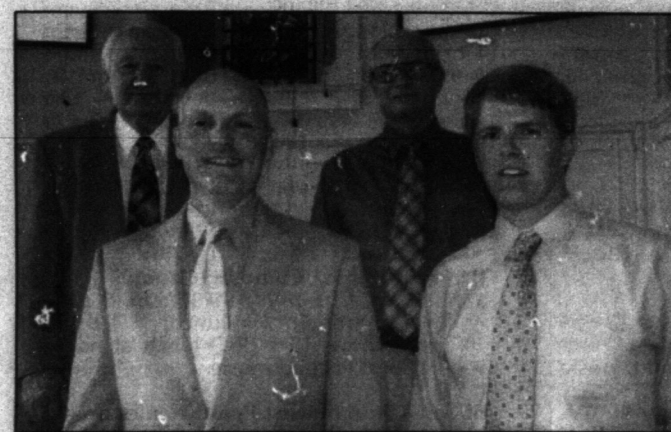
1. Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto



2. Ray ordination



3. Northcrest Church, Meridian



4. Pace ordination

1. Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, held a Grandparents Day Sept. 11. Shown are the grandparents and grandchildren present.

2. Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill, ordained Louis Ray as deacon Sept. 18. Shown are Katie Grace Ray, Wendy Ray, Ray, and pastor Chas Rowland.

3. A group of singles from Northcrest Church, Meridian, attended the Single Adult Autumn Round-Up sponsored by the Neshoba County Association Sept. 17. Shown are the participants.

4. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, ordained Matt Pace as deacon Sept. 11. Shown are Robert Holifield, pastor Jeff Floyd, Mike Doss and Pace.

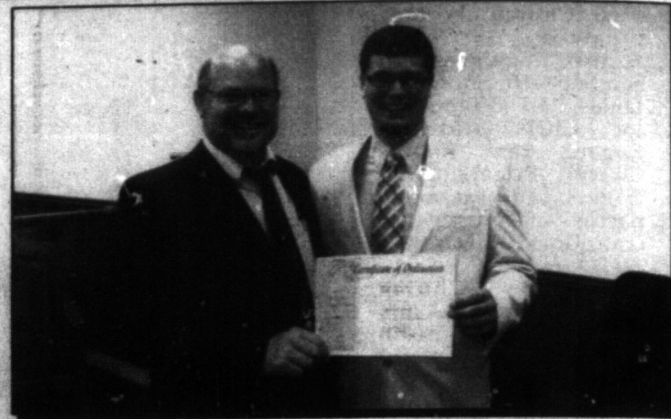
5. Liberty Church, Liberty, presented perfect Sunday School attendance certificates to D.M. Dixon, Jr. (48 years), Ruth Dixon (48 years), Jesse P. Mabry (one year), Bob Seale (four years), and Gary Austin (25 years).

6. New Zion Church, Braxton, ordained Seth Stanley to the ministry Sept. 18. Stanley serves as the church's youth minister and a reception was held in his honor. Shown are Stanley and pastor Jimmy Errington.

7. Neshoba Church, Union, ordained Larry Moore and Rob Matson as deacons Sept. 11. Shown are deacon chairman Rusty Hanna, Moore, Matson, and pastor Johnny Collins.

8. Smithville Church, Smithville, held its first services in their temporary buildings. Shown are the participants.

9. Mt. Pisgah, Carrollton had an average attendance of 46 children, 12 youth, and 24 workers at their VBS. Lanny Haley, pastor.



6. Stanley ordination



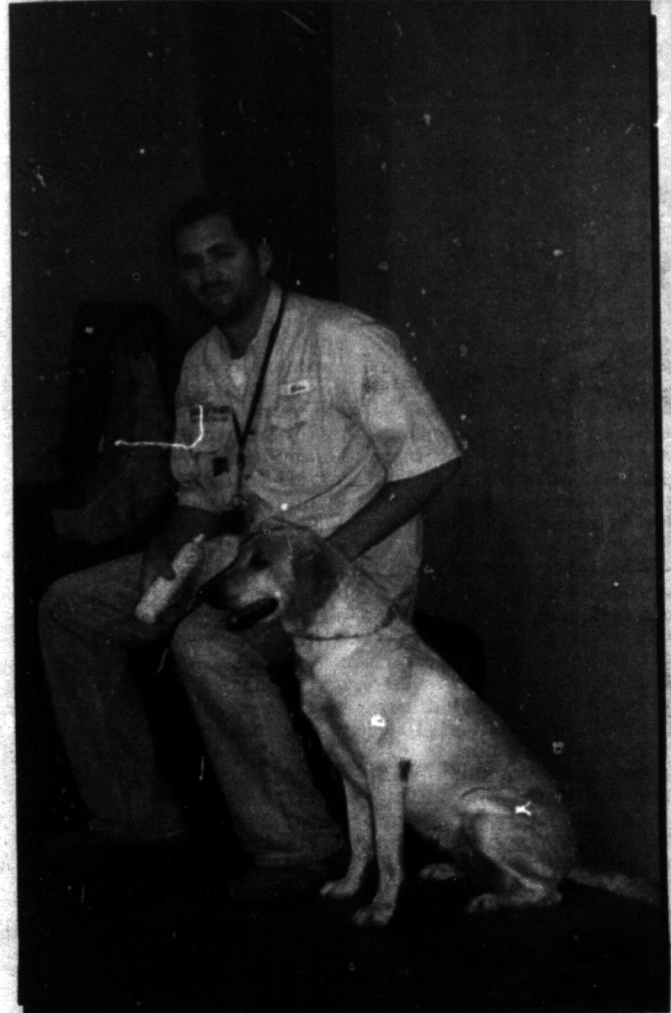
7. Neshoba Church, Union



8. Smithville Church, Smithville



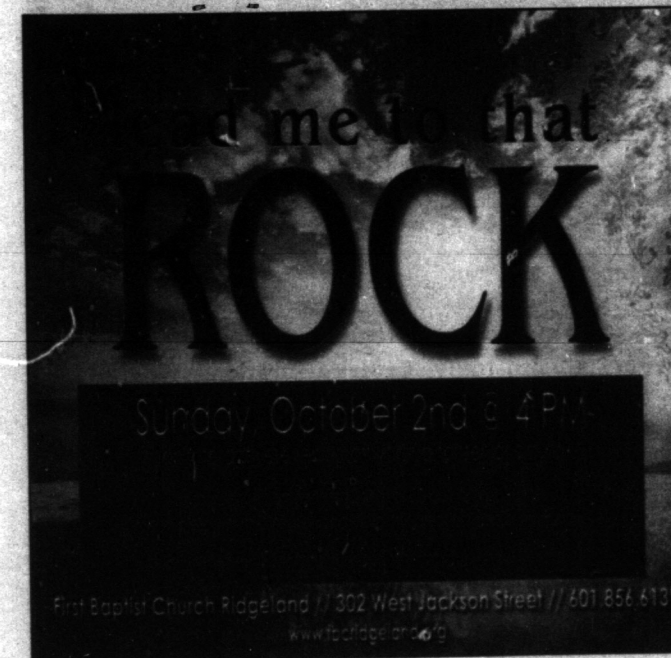
9. Mt. Pisgah, Carrollton, VBS



1. Ethel Church, Ethel

1. Ethel Church, Ethel, hosted a wild game supper Sept. 10, with guest speaker Jonathan Sherwin, Blind Faith Ministries, and his Labrador retriever Malli. Shown are Sherwin and Malli.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org



NRB: Big corporations assuming right to discriminate, stifle speech

WASHINGTON (BP) — Apple, Google, and other Internet giants are participating in religious discrimination and restricting free speech, according to a new report by the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) organization.

"If Christian content and worldview programming are censored by new media platforms... the Good News of the Gospel could become one more casualty of institutionalized religious discrimination," said NRB President Frank Wright.

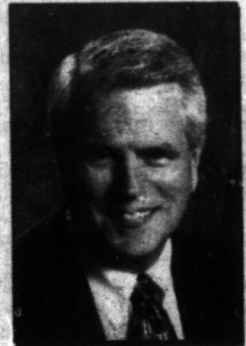
The report, released Sept. 15 in Washington, examined the policies and practices of Apple, Facebook, Google, MySpace, and Twitter, as well as Internet service providers Comcast, AT&T, and Verizon.

Twitter is the only corporation that did not show signs of religious discrimination, according to the report. Twitter refuses to monitor or remove content unless it interferes with the terms of service.

The ideal proposition for solving this problem, according to the NRB, is to persuade the individual companies to eradicate censorship voluntarily and abide by their obligation to protect free speech. If the suggestions are not taken into consideration, NRB said it is willing to respond with such actions as legislation, regulation, or litigation.

NRB's report included the following examples of discrimination or potential censorship:

- Apple offers hundreds of thousands of iPhone applications, but removed two apps by ex-gay Christian ministry Exodus International. Consumers were denied access to these two apps because their Christian content was considered "offensive."
- Facebook's decision to partner with the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination



Frank Wright

(GLAAD) could mean that "Christian content critical of homosexuality, same-sex marriage or similar practices will be at risk of censorship."

• Google initially refused to allow the Christian Institute of England to purchase advertisement space because of its information about abortion law. After the institute sued Google under Britain's Equality Act, the Internet conglomerate revised its policy, requiring the information to be "factual."

These few giant corporations virtually rule the vast Internet world. The report, an effort of the NRB's John Milton Project, says corporate leaders hold the power to ban content when they alone determine whether an application, website, article, or viewpoint is considered "accurate" and "factual."

A recurring theme when dealing with online censorship is the question of whether the First Amendment should apply to these privately owned and operated corporations. The right to free speech only pertains to public utilities. However, the Internet is a resource that is used as a public forum for discussion on a daily basis.

The report emphasizes the Internet as an outlet through which individuals can address controversial issues to a "potentially unlimited audience." It also says the freedom to express those opinions through this continually improving technological channel must be defended.

"I hope these companies, the good companies that they are, get the message that they may be coloring outside the lines here," said Colby May, director of the Washington, D.C., offices of the American Center for Law and Justice.

May spoke during a panel discussion after the release of the NRB report at the National Press Club. "Let's do the right thing here," he said.

NRB is a non-partisan, international association of Christian communicators. It said it tackled the issue because it is "committed to representing Christian broadcasting wherever threats to religious freedom emerge."

The NRB report can be accessed online at <http://content.nrb.org/Webdocs/Legal/True%20Liberty-in-a-New-Media-Age-9-15-11.pdf>.

Obama religious freedom violators list getting mostly lukewarm reviews

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. State Department's first list under the Obama administration of the worst violators of overseas religious freedom received disappointing reviews from some advocates on the issue.

A bipartisan panel and a veteran congressman expressed displeasure with the State Department's designation of the same eight countries of Particular Concern (CPCs) last cited more than two and a half years ago. The secretary of state is expected under federal law to name CPCs each year, but the list announced Sept. 13 was the first since the Bush administration's final designations only days before President Obama took office in January 2009.

The CPC list, which was released with the State Department's annual report on global religious liberty, continues to consist of the countries of

Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) had urged the State Department in May to redesignate those eight regimes as CPCs and to add six others: Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.

While USCIRF welcomed the Obama administration's first CPC list, it "is concerned that no new countries were added to the list," commission Chairman Leonard Leo said in a written statement. "Repeating the current list continues glaring omissions, such as Pakistan and Vietnam. Since CPC designations can be made at any time, we respectfully urge Secretary [Hillary] Clinton to consider the six additional countries we recommended for designation."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., also made clear his disappointment in the State Department's failure to add CPCs. "Countries left off the list, such as Egypt and Pakistan, should not assume they are meeting their international obligations to protect the religious freedom of their citizens," he said in a written release.

Smith cited the increased persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt that includes the abduction of Coptic women and girls who are forced to convert to Islam and marry outside their faith. He also pointed to the Pakistani government's refusal to respond effectively to the assassinations this year of two government officials who opposed the pro-Muslim blasphemy laws.

The refusal to designate Vietnam "is a lost opportunity," Smith said.

GuideStone mutual fund receives positive report

DALLAS (BP) — GuideStone Funds, launched just 15 days before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, has prospered through a turbulent decade that included two recessions and a national financial crisis.

The nation's largest Christian-based, socially screened registered mutual fund company, GuideStone Funds was launched as AB Funds Trust on Aug. 27, 2001, when GuideStone was still known officially as the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. A decade ago, GuideStone Funds offered 13 options. Today, that number has doubled.

Throughout GuideStone Funds' first 10 years, third-party ranking firms such as Fitch, Lipper, and Morningstar have ranked the funds as rivaling competitors. For the quarter ending June 30 of this year, Fitch ranked the GuideStone Funds family second out of 222 fund families nationwide.

"The historic launch of GuideStone Funds paved the way to providing our participants with more flexibility and confidence in their portfolios through industry-standard product offerings," John Jones, president of GuideStone Funds and chief operating officer of GuideStone Financial Resources, said in conjunction with a 10th anniversary celebration by

employees at GuideStone's offices in Dallas on Aug. 29.

"It heightened the level of service we provide our participants, as many of our employees have more advanced training, securities licenses, and professional designations," Jones noted. The launch of the registered mutual fund family also provided enhanced disclosures and transparency for GuideStone's participants — today numbering more than 200,000 across all GuideStone product lines — to understand their investment choices.

"It also opened the door to expanded savings opportunities with IRAs and personal investment options as well as institutional investment opportunities for operating, building reserves and endowment assets," Jones said.

"The GuideStone Funds are built on the investment philosophy developed by the funds adviser, GuideStone Capital Management," Jones said. "The multi-manager, multi-style investment approach allows GuideStone Capital Management access to what they believe to be some of the best investment minds in the world."

"Our investment structure is built for the long-term," said Rodric E. Cummins, senior vice president and chief investment officer of GuideStone Capital

Management. "It is designed to provide thoughtful, high-quality, strategic investment options to our participants and is executed by world-class investment management firms."

In addition to the Fitch Lipper 2500 standings, Lipper noted 15 of 21 GuideStone funds performed above the median for the one-year period ending July 31 of this year; 19 of 20 funds performed above the median in the three-year period; and 11 of 14 funds performed above the median for the five-year period. Morningstar has ranked 17 of 19 funds GuideStone funds as either four- or three-star overall in the three-year period and 12 of 12 funds in the five-year period.

Noting the fund family's track record, Cummins said the first decade for GuideStone Funds has been a story of sustainability through turmoil. "Over the past 10 years we've been able to do more than stand strong. We've been able to expand our fund offerings for the benefit of our participants, implementing investment philosophies that we believe

serve them best without forgoing our convictions."

"In short, GuideStone Funds holds to the exact same tenets today that we held to 10 years ago, and those will be the same tenets we hold to 10 or even 100 years from now," Cummins said. "In addition, as the GuideStone Funds rankings demonstrate, we believe we have dispelled the myth that if you want your money to grow, you have to invest in things you might wish you didn't have to."

"While past performance is no guarantee of future results, our participants can see for themselves by looking at our results and recognizing that performance and values-based investing do not have to be mutually exclusive," Cummins said. "They can walk hand-in-hand."

GuideStone also announced a new investment fund intended to achieve long-term returns consistent with the equity (stock) market but with less short-term fluctuation. The new Defensive Market Strategies Fund will be part of two GuideStone Asset Allocation

Funds: the Conservative Allocation Fund and the Balanced Allocation Fund. It also will be part of the MyDestination Funds, which become more conservative as the target date approaches.

At its launch, the Defensive Market Strategies Fund will be part of the MyDestination 2005, 2015, and 2025 funds.

The Defensive Market Strategies Fund also is available for direct investment. Participants who want to determine if the fund is an appropriate part of their retirement investment portfolio can access GuideStone's free financial advice tool, GPS: Guided Planning Services.

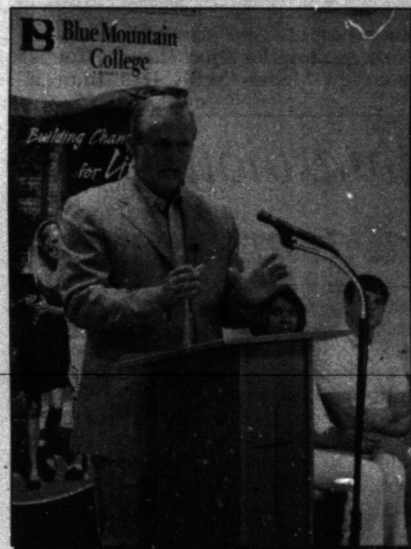
Participants can access it by logging in to their accounts at www.MyGuideStone.org or by setting up an appointment by calling (888) 98-GUIDE/(888) 984-8433.

"GuideStone is privileged to once again enhance our fund selection for the benefit of our valued participants," said Jones. "We're excited to add this fund as an option to potentially help our participants further diversify their portfolios."

Investors who want to learn more about the Defensive Market Strategies Fund can review its fact sheet at www.GuideStoneFunds.org/Funds.

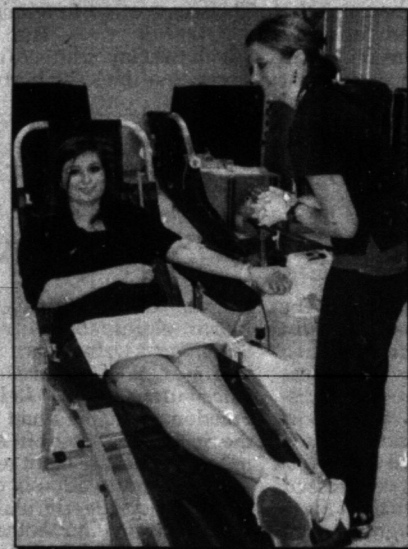
GuideStone FINANCIAL RESOURCES of the Southern Baptist Convention

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Grisham

1. World renowned author John Grisham was at Blue Mountain College on September 12, highlighting a celebration of the school's 138-year heritage and achievements, and unveiling plans to expand facilities and services at the school. Grisham, the author of more than 20 books that have been published in 38 countries, was invited to the event by his good friend, James Nunnally of Ripley who was among the more than 250 in attendance.



2. Barkley

2. Shown is Grisham addressing students. Jana Barkley, a freshman theatre major from Picayune, gives blood at the blood drive William Carey University's student activities department hosted for the American Red Cross on September 15. This is the second blood drive WCU has hosted this year.

3. William Carey University hosted a Dedication Ceremony and Open



3. Asbury Administrative Center dedication

House for the Asbury Administrative Center, which is Phase III of the College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) complex, on Wednesday, September 14. The ceremony gave the students, faculty, staff and guests an opportunity to tour the building. The Asbury Administration Center houses the office of the WCUCOM deans and administrative staff. Shown are

Hugh Dickens, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Everett Roark, assistant professor of biological sciences and microbiology, Tommy King, president of WCU, William K. Ray, president and chief executive officer of the Asbury Foundation, Darrell Lovins, dean of the WCUCOM, and Jason DeFatta, a second year WCUCOM student and president of the COM Student Government.

Overtturn of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' seen as troubling

WASHINGTON (BP) — The military's ban on open homosexuality officially came to an end Sept. 20, resulting in celebration among gay and lesbian groups but concern elsewhere that the new policy would restrict religious freedoms and infringe on privacy.

The old policy, dubbed Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), was implemented in 1993 as a compromise between those who wanted to allow open service by homosexuals and those opposed to it. Under DADT, military commanders could not ask service members about their sexuality, although they could conduct an investigation if they learned about a member's homosexuality.

The policy's reversal is one of the biggest accomplishments for U.S. President Barack Obama and his liberal base after he pledged during the 2008 campaign to work to reverse the law. A bill repealing it passed the House in December, 250-175, and then the Senate, 65-31, in the final days of the last Congress when Democrats still controlled both chambers.

Obama signed it just before Christmas, and Republicans took control of the House in January.

The policy officially took effect after Obama, the secretary of defense, and the joint chiefs of staff chairman certified that reversing the policy would not harm the military and after a 60-day review period by Congress had passed. That review period ended Sept. 19.

"It's a sad day for our men and women in the armed services and for the country," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told

Baptist Press. "This policy, unless it is reversed, will cause significant numbers of our dedicated men and women to leave the service, particularly at the critically important non-commissioned officer level."

"This action will seriously degrade unit morale and will lead to a myriad of problems. Our armed forces are not the place for social experimentation. They exist to fight and win wars and defend our freedom. Their ability to perform those functions will be lessened by this policy."

The policy, Land said, will destroy unit cohesion. "It needs to be rescinded, and it needs to be rescinded in the very near future. And that can happen. Elections do have consequences," he said.

In fact, the new policy had an impact just after midnight in Vermont, where Navy Lt. Gary Ross "married" his partner in a ceremony that drew nationwide media coverage.

In a statement, President Obama applauded repeal of what he called a "discriminatory" law. "As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love," Obama said.

"As of today, our armed forces will no longer lose the extraordinary skills and combat experience of so many gay and lesbian service members... Today, every American can be proud that we have taken another great step toward keeping our military the finest in the world and toward fulfilling our nation's founding ideals."

Repeal brings a host of problems, critics say. One question concerns whether military bases located in states where same sex marriage or civil unions are legal can host such ceremonies in chapels, and also

whether military chaplains can perform the ceremonies. Conservatives say the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman, prevents the military from recognizing gay relationships and thus prohibits participation in such ceremonies.

In May, the U.S. Navy at first said such ceremonies could be performed on bases in states where they are legal, but it reversed course under pressure from some in Congress.

Another concern, critics say, involves freedom of religion for chaplains and military personnel. Will Christians in the military, those critics ask, still be able to call homosexuality a sin without fear of recourse? In May, 21 denominational chaplain-endorsing officials sent a letter to the Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs of chaplains, saying they have concern that overturning the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy would "create an environment that is increasingly hostile to the many chaplains and the service members they serve whose faith groups and personal consciences recognize homosexual behavior as immoral and unsafe, and do not permit same-sex unions."

"No American, especially those serving in the armed forces, should be forced to abandon their religious beliefs or be marginalized for holding to those beliefs," the

"This action will seriously degrade unit morale and will lead to a myriad of problems. Our armed forces ... exist to fight and win wars and defend our freedom. Their ability to perform those functions will be lessened by this policy."

— Richard Land
Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission president
Southern Baptist Convention

chaplains' letter said. The letter asked the chiefs of chaplains to urge the Department of Defense and Congress to adopt conscience protections for those opposed to homosexuality.

Several months before that letter was sent, more than 60 retired chaplains had signed a letter to Obama and the secretary of defense warning that a repeal would marginalize "deeply held" religious beliefs of military personnel and would present a conflict when some chaplains, while preaching, "present religious teachings that identify homosexual behavior as immoral."

They warned that changing the policy could influence chaplains not only in what they could preach but in what they could say in a counseling session. A repeal, the letter further said, would harm morale because it would be casting "the sincerely held religious beliefs of many chaplains and service members as rank bigotry comparable to racism."

The U.S. Department of Defense has said it will have a "zero tolerance policy" for anti-gay behavior. The Washington Post reported. That led Tony Perkins of the conservative Family Research Council to comment on Twitter: "The critical question: what constitutes 'anti-gay behavior'? Is holding/voicing disapproval of homosexual behavior anti-gay?"

Pastors: denominations important, but fading over next decade

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Three-quarters of pastors with denominational affiliation believe it is vital to be part of a denomination, but a majority also believe that the importance of identifying with a denomination will diminish over the next 10 years.

That is the finding of a survey by LifeWay Research of more than 900 American Protestant pastors. The survey excluded pastors of non-denominational churches.

In response to the statement, "Personally, I consider it vital for me to be part of a denomination," three-quarters of pastors (76%) agree. That includes 57% who strongly agree and 19% who somewhat agree. Ten percent somewhat disagree and 14% strongly disagree while one percent don't know.

Similarly, three-quarters (77%) of pastors agree with the statement, "Our congregation considers it vital for our congregation to be part of a denomination." Fifty percent strongly agree, 27% somewhat agree, nine percent somewhat disagree and 14% strongly disagree. Two percent don't know.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, expressed his

appreciation for the findings. "Since denominations are a way to distinguish one's belief and practice, it is heartening to know that most pastors still understand the need for making a clear statement doctrinally as well as to work together to do the work God has commanded," he said.

"Therefore, I am excited to realize that a majority of pastors still understand that we can do more together than we can do apart. It is also encouraging to know that the teaching of God's Word and its distinctive application is still important to many," he added.

Despite the convictions of identity, however, nearly two-thirds of pastors (62%) believe the importance of identifying with a denomination will decline over the next decade.

Survey participants were asked, "I believe that the importance of being identified with a denomination will diminish over the next 10 years." Twenty-eight percent of pastors strongly agree and 34% somewhat agree. Fifteen percent somewhat disagree, and 18% strongly disagree. Five percent don't know.

"We live in a time when pastors are positive about denominations now, but are less certain

about the future," said Thom S. Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. "For pastors and churches in the SBC, it reminds us that we need to teach the value of cooperation — now and in the future."

Evangelical and educational differences

The survey results reveal that pastors who consider themselves mainline are more likely than evangelicals to agree (strongly or somewhat) that their personal membership in a denomination is important. While 85% of mainline pastors agree that it is vital to be part of a denomination, only 74% of evangelicals agree.

Education and age also affect pastors' opinions of denominations. Those with at least a master's degree (62%) are more likely to strongly agree that their personal denominational identification is vital than pastors with a bachelor's degree (41%) or some college (48%).

Pastors ages 65 and older are more likely to strongly agree (71%) that their personal denominational identification is vital than those ages 55-64 (58%), 45-54 (55%) and 18-44 (48%).

The same groups — mainline versus evangelical, education and age — have differences in responses from pastors regarding whether their congregations consider identifying with a denomination to be important:

- Those who consider themselves mainline (85%) are more likely than evangelicals (77%) to agree (strongly or somewhat) that their congregation considers it vital to be part of a denomination.
- Pastors with at least a master's degree (53%) and those with some college (45%) are more likely to strongly agree that their congregation considers denominational membership vital than pastors with a bachelor's degree (35%).

- Although age does not affect total agreement, pastors 65 and older (62%) are more likely to strongly agree that their church considers denominational affiliation vital than pastors ages 55-64 (48%), 45-54 (49%) or 18-44 (45%).

Pastors of larger churches are most likely to agree (strongly or somewhat) that the importance of denominations will diminish over the next decade. Seventy-two percent of those with churches averaging 250 or more in worship agree, compared with 62% of those aver-

aging 50-99 and 53% of those averaging fewer than 50.

Pastors with less than a bachelor's degree (28%) are more likely to strongly disagree than pastors with at least a master's degree (14%) that the importance of identifying with a denomination will diminish over the next decade.

Although the majority of all age groups agree that identifying with a denomination will decrease in importance, pastors age 65 and older are the most likely age bracket to strongly disagree. While 27% of 65 and older strongly disagree, only 16% of ages 55-64, 15% of ages 45-54, and 16% of 18-44 strongly disagree.

"Ironically, the future value of most denominations depends at least in part on the very pastors who predict their decline in influence," said Ed Stetzer, vice president of research and ministry development at LifeWay. "The group most likely to predict denominational decline is pastors of larger churches, which is probably not surprising to most observers. Yet, it does point to the future challenge for denominational leaders."

The poll, conducted in March 2010, surveyed 932 U.S. pastors.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 2011

HONORS

The Lord
Rev. William B. & Senitra W. Webb
Mada Arendale
Fruit of the Spirit SSC, FBC Batesville
Doris Ashmore
J.O.Y. Class, Neshoba B.C. Union
Becky Branning
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Debbie Brumitt
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Annie Kate Burrell
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Kay Chaney
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Teresa Chaney
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Pat Conerly
Mr. & Mrs. Henry W. Darden Jr.
Mary June Cooksey
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
David Donham
Ms. Becky Avis
Janie Easterling
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Lori Edney
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Roy Ezell
Gleaners SSC, Pilgrim's Rest BC
Ms. Susan Fitzgerald
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Debbie Freeman
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Mrs. Ruth Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Barksdale
Mary Hallberg
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Karen Harless
Peggy Harper
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Jessie Humble
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Ausbun & Lola Hurt
Ladies SSC, Springdale BC, Ripley

Sharon Ladd
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Leah Langley
James & Lori Langley
Kay Lee
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Maxine Lott
J.O.Y. Class, Neshoba B.C. Union
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Mayo
Mrs. Robert F. Neely Jr.
Jeanie McDonald
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Dr. Everett McKibben
Ms. Frances H. Howard
Susan McKinnie
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Sara McNair
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Meredith McRight
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Carol Ann Oakman
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
J. V. Parker
Ms. Patricia Apperson
Sandra Peters
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Amy Robinson
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Nina Rocconi
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Mr. Louie & Mrs. Ted Rutland
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Snowden
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb
Linda Strong
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Georganne Swillie
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Camille Thomas
Ms. Suzanne J. Braddock
Ms. Suzanne J. Braddock
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Hennessey
Mrs. Joy Ann Hennessey
Mrs. Robert P. McConnell
Mrs. Robert P. McConnell
Ms. Melanie Mendrop
Mrs. Deanna B. Miller
Danny Vail
Gleaners SSC, Pilgrim's Rest BC
Carol Watkins
Ms. Melanie Mendrop

Natalie Watson
Mrs. Charles L. Grant
Don & Betty Wedgeworth
Ms. Joyce Hardy
Bro. David & Jennifer Williams
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges

MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Gay Jr.
Michael Hennington
Mrs. Molly McRaney
Reece & Martha Douglas
Grace Frasier Abraham
Ed & Clarice Goodwin
Ms. Martha Till
Frank & Sandra Crosthwait
Richard Abrahams
Carol and Bill Harris
Jerry F. Ainsworth
Robert & Liz Tuggle
Gordon L. Alexander
Mrs. Kathleen M. Alexander
Ms. Julia A. Arnold
Holly Sharp Arthur
Mrs. Aubrey Helen Brown
Mildred, Ralph & Nancy Gardner
Mrs. Phyllis Ashley
James & Maudie Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Mr. Floyd Atkinson
Tom & Judy Woodward
Donna Barnore
Double Springs BC, Maben, MS
Alvin Barrett
Larry & Sandra Oakes
Gary Barrick
Robert & Janie Thomas
Mr. Billie Barton
Phillip & Era Lee Hilton
Thomas Bell
Jeannette & Jimmy O'Mara
Casa Calvin Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Slay
Mrs. Douglas Slay
Ms. Mary Emily Connor
Bill Beasley
Dr. & Mrs. Chester W. Masterson
Dr. & Mrs. Gene Warren
Bill Blair
Buford & Rudy Griffith
Frank & Brenda Williamson

Mrs. Retha Ann Campau
Faithful Workers SSC,
New Prospect BC
James & Betty Crosby
Joe & Trish Maggio
Mr. Walt Cantrell
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Mrs. Winnie Carlisle
Arlington Heights BC,
Pascagoula
Daniel & Dianne Smith
Miss Carmen Carter
Mrs. Elizabeth M. Curlee
Murray Robert "Bo" Casey
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries
Sidney Jean Hurst Caston
Garry & Ann Austin

Rivers R. Catledge
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Pete Chapman
Cynthia D. Davis
Ed Chisolm
Larry & Frances Cooley
Bill Clark
Joy Harlan Cliburn
Mr. Ronald W. Bond
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Harrell
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Ray Smith
Bill & Billie Jean Thornton
Bobby & Betty Sue Willson
Ms. Inez Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Sim Worley

Ralph & Sadie Carroll
Wayne & Vicki Derrick
Ms. June W. Pybas
Ms. June W. Smith
Pat Cockroft
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Annie Dora Collins
Stanton BC, Natchez
Boyd Collins
Ms. Maida C. Stegall
Howard Collins
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
George Coward
Mr. Joe Davis
Ms. Sheila Dillon
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Larry & Sylvia Melton
Kyle Reese Cox
Pine Burr BC, Columbia

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN NORTH MISSISSIPPI

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent opening in North Mississippi, please contact Celeste Cade at 601-922-2242 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Planning for the New Church Year

As you plan your programs for your church groups in this new church year, including WMU, Men's Ministry,

and Senior Adults, please request a speaker from The Baptist Children's Village. We have representatives who travel all across the state who can give a presentation that accommodates your group. Our representatives are pleased to work with any group no matter the size.

Please call Celeste Cade, 601-922-2242 or e-mail ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com, to reserve your date and time.

Larry & Pam Gneini

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Glory Revealed

John 1:14, 18; 2:1-11

By Huey Dedmon

I was watching highlights from several of the NFL football games the other night and witnessed some amazing catches by several players. One in particular was a pass from Eli Manning to his wide receiver. The receiver was in the end zone. The ball bounced off his hands as he was falling down. He reached out, tipped the ball up just before it touched the ground, and caught it as he was rolling on the ground. All the time the defender is in his way trying to prevent the catch. It takes an incredible amount of focus and concentration to make such a great play. In our studies over the next few weeks we will be studying some of the miracles of Jesus. This week, John share with us Jesus' first mir-

acle, turning the water to wine at a wedding feast.

Understand the Mission of Jesus John 2:1-5

From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, He had a single focus and that was to do the will of His father. The reason He was here was to do what His Father had prepared for Him. Even His response to His mother Mary at the wedding feast may seem harsh at first glance, but through that response we understand that no one but the Father controlled Jesus. He was so focused that even his mother's requests were second to fulfilling God's purpose. Like Jesus we need to learn to evaluate our wants and desires in light of God's will for us. Mary trusted Jesus to do the



Dedmon

right thing. We also can trust Him to do the right thing. His mission is to bring Glory to God by doing His Father's will. Our mission is the same—to bring glory to our Heavenly Father. When we understand this, our ministry moves from about us to about Him and His purpose for our lives.

Experience the Power of Jesus John 2:6-10

While we marvel at the power and focus it takes to make an unbelievable catch like the one I described above, there is no match for the power Jesus displayed by turning water into wine. Only the power of the creator of everything could do such a miracle. Three life applications can be made from this event. One is we should realize that if Jesus can do that, then He can do anything. Two, we see Jesus meeting the simple need of a newlywed

couple. He saved them from the embarrassment of running out of wine at a most important occasion. He is concerned with the everyday happenings in our lives. Last, we understand that by following Jesus we are not missing out on something better. There is nothing better than following Him. What Jesus offers us is always superior to anything this world can offer. Also, we must remember that Jesus did not just make wine. He made the best wine at the celebration and He made a lot of it, about 150 gallons. Jesus wants to give us His best and He wants to give it to us in abundance. He will work His power in and through us if we will just focus on Him and His purpose.

See the Glory of Jesus John 2:11; 1:14, 18

John reveals to us in these scriptures that Jesus was God in the flesh and that He came to earth to make God known. His use of the word "sign" shows us the heart of his message. The miracle Jesus per-

formed in Cana was a sign for all to see. This sign displayed the Glory of God in the life of His Son. The disciples' response was to "believe in Him." Jesus was still in the process of calling His disciples. Those with Him had just declared their belief that He was the Messiah and committed to follow Him. Their faith was a growing faith and this sign solidified for them and it should solidify for us, that Jesus is God in the flesh. Through Jesus we can understand what God is like and how He works. That is the Glory revealed to us through this miracle. Jesus is God's revelation of Himself to us.

Our belief in Jesus is not based in the fact of the miracle itself, but in the realization that He is the One and Only Son of God! If we want to know what God is like, then we must study the life of Jesus!

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE It's All About New Life

Romans 6:1-16, 22-23

By Marion D. Duncan

In explaining to the Christian Jews the unconditional, incomparable love of God, the result of which is eternal life, and His unmerited, undeserved grace that is always more abundant than sin, Paul sets up an argument based on "... where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death (while we were without Christ), so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life..." (Romans 5:20b-21)

Does it, then, logically follow that "we should sin more so we can receive more of God's grace"? By no means! Barclay in *The Letter to the Romans* puts this in human terms. How despicable it would be for a son or a daughter to consider himself/herself

free to sin and do as he/she pleased, because he/she knew that a father or a mother would forgive. That would be taking advantage of love to break love's heart. It would be a terrible thing to make the mercy of God an excuse to sin.

We died to sin when we accepted Christ as our Savior and identified with him by following him in baptism—the picture of our death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life. Baptism did not save us. It acknowledged our obedience to his command to be baptized as he was. The "old man" (synonym for the old life and the solidarity of the sinner with it) died to one way of life and was born again to live the new life of Christ. Man must have air to live physical life, and it must



Duncan

be in him. Unless we are in Christ and Christ is in us, we cannot live the life of God. A Christian should live so close to Christ that all his life can be said to be lived in Christ (Barclay). Pat and Mike found a decapitated turtle as they walked together along the road. But, the turtle was still running around as though nothing was wrong. Pat argued that the turtle was dead; Mike denied it vehemently. Along came O'Brien, whom they decided should have the last word about the state of the turtle. Presently O'Brien said, "The turtle is dead, but he don't believe it!" Many Christians are dead, but they do not believe it! (*Exploring Romans*, John Phillips)

Since through our salvation, we died with Christ, then we know we also will live with Him. He died to defeat the power of sin for all time, and His new life is with God. The same mighty power which

raised Christ from the dead has immediate application in lives of believers today making us dead to the power of sin and alive with God through Christ Jesus. (Romans 6: 8-11, New Century Version)

Christianity is not an emotional experience; it is a way of life. Paul implored his readers to change their way of living, to stop living for sin and doing what is wrong and instead to live as God desires. "So, do not let sin control your life here on earth so that you do what your sinful self wants to do. Instead... Offer the parts of your body to God to be used in doing good. Sin will not be your master, because you are not under law but under God's grace." (NCV) "It is not restraint but inspiration which liberates from sin; not Mount Sinai but Mount Calvary which makes saints." (James Denney)

In verses 15-16 Paul explains that emancipation from the old master (sin) brings a new liberty. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your

heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV) True freedom is freedom from sin and freedom to sonship and eternal life.

Along with our new liberty comes a new loyalty. The unbeliever is a slave to sin—to impurity and ever-increasing wickedness. But, the believer is loyal (yielded) to Christ who purchased us with His own blood. The old master shamed us and paid us the wages of death. The new Master makes us holy and gives us life evermore.

Emancipation from the old master brings a new longevity—a new quality of life altogether. (Phillips) Paul asked another question—what did you gain from the time you were involved in evil things, a time you are now ashamed of? The payment for sin is death—eternal absence from God's presence. But, God's gift is eternal life—life with Him forever.

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number. Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

2,000+ collegians hear, 'Christianity is not a crutch'

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The needs of a hurting world and transformational missions opportunities to meet those needs were set before 2,000-plus students during Collegiate Week at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center near Santa Fe, N.M.

The gathering for collegians and adult leaders from across the country was sponsored by the Threads young adult area of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville.

People who are sold out to Jesus have amazing opportunities to see Him at work, said Michael Kelley, one of the week's featured speakers. "Christianity is not a crutch for the weak," said the LifeWay Bible study editor and a Threads author. "That gives us too much credit. Christianity is a stretcher for the dead! We didn't just need a little help. We are a bunch of reborn corpses."

"You can't script out what happened to us when Christ came into our lives. We've been born again into a family that will never revoke our membership."

Kelley said his heart's goal is to be "left breathless with praise welling up and erupting in the light of what God is doing in us."

Matt Chandler, another featured speaker and lead pastor at The Village Church in Highland

Village, Texas, spoke about dealing with sin before it completely takes hold. "You have issues. Sin issues. They are in your life," he told the college crowd. "You know it. You admit it. You confess it. You swear you'll never do it again, but then you go right out and do it again."

Speaking directly to young men in the audience, Chandler said: "Men, it's a terrifying reality that your sin will affect your wife and your children. Deal with it now so you won't have to deal with it 10 years from now. God will expose your sin. He does that. It's better if you confess and repent yourself."

"You overcome sin when you realize that Christ is lovelier than that sin. When you see Him as more beautiful and more attractive than your sin, you will cast aside the sin. You want to get out of sin? Grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ."

Students and leaders chose from more than 150 breakout sessions on topics ranging from C.S. Lewis, evangelism, and marriage, to social networking, an in-depth dive into Genesis, money management, long-term missions, and BAM (Be a Man).

Linda Osborne, director of LifeWay's Threads area, facilitated a session for leaders on helping students transition to young professionals. "We have learned that this is a time of crisis for many students," she said.



PRAISE AND WORSHIP — University of Utah students (from left) Ann Winsness, Naomi Sherman, and Jamie Sue Rankin worship with the Chris White Band at Collegiate Week Aug. 7-11 at the LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico. (BP photo)

"Psychologists say that how a young person handles the first major crisis sets the stage for how they handle the rest."

For this reason, some sort of transitional ministry is needed, Osborne said. Understanding that college juniors and seniors have more demands on their time academically, collegiate ministry leaders will have to accept that these students will be involved in college ministry differently than they were as freshmen and sophomores.

"Help them connect strongly to a local church," Osborne stressed to attendees. "Remind them it is OK to be assertive in their church and find a place of ministry that will work with the time they have."

Osborne said a young professional tends to look for four things in a church:

- **Community:** Young professionals want church to be authentic and real. They aren't looking for fluff. Their time is too valuable for that.

- **Connection:** Young professionals want to be mentored by someone honest and practical. They want to connect with people of all ages, not just other young adults.

- **Depth:** Young professionals aren't afraid of doing and learning hard things. Again, no fluff.

- **Responsibility:** Young professionals want their church to be proactive and meet needs they see. They want ministry to be local as well as national and international.

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